

PYHSICIAN INFORMATION BULLETIN # 11

PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CONSULTS

The Fund will reimburse CPT codes 99241 through 99245 for Emergency Department consultations.

Trauma physicians, including trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, critical care physicians, anesthesiologists, and emergency room physicians, are now able to bill for a limited number of consultation services provided to an uncompensated care trauma patient in the Emergency Department (ED). The Fund will reimburse trauma physicians for consultations provided in the ED. CPT code

range eligible for reimbursement in the ED are as follows:

99241-self limited or minor severity
99242-low severity
99243-moderate severity
99244-moderate to high severity
99245-moderate to high severity

ILLUSTRATION

Mr. Jones received treatment in a Level III trauma center for injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Dr. Smith, a trauma surgeon in the Emergency Department, examined Mr. Jones. Dr. Smith determined that Mr. Jones' injuries were serious enough to require his transfer to a higher level trauma center.

Dr. Smith's billing office submitted a charge to the Fund for consultative services using a CPT code between 99241 through 99245 to receive payment for Mr. Jones' examination in the Emergency Department.

Current News

- ◆ MHCC has conducted two education sessions, one in Cheverly and the other in Hagerstown, for trauma physicians and their billing staff. A third session is scheduled on:
 - January 5th at Peninsula Regional Medical Center

The purpose of this meeting is to update participants on the changes in the application process, review Medical Assistance billing, and answer questions regarding the January 2005 submission.

- ◆ The deadline for submitting the next Uncompensated Care and On-Call Applications is **January 31, 2005**. MHCC encourages trauma physicians use the Excel spreadsheet version of the Uncompensated Care Application, which is available on MHCC's Web site at www.mhcc.state.md.us/trauma_fund/_trauma.htm.